

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM**  
**2011 FACT SHEET**

1. **GLOBAL:** Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) affects mostly young adults in their most productive years, and is the leading killer of people who are HIV infected. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. In 2009, the World Health Organization estimates there were approximately nine million new cases of TB disease and 1.7 million TB-related deaths.
2. **NATIONAL:** Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for more than a decade. In 2010, a total of 11,182 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 3% decrease from 11,537 cases in 2009. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,599 cases) to 60% of the national total (6,720 cases) in 2009.
3. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County reported 263 cases of active TB in 2011 (case rate of 8.4 per 100,000 population). This represents an 18% increase from the most recent 2 years (222 cases in 2010, and 223 cases in 2009). The total in 2011 is similar to the total in 2008 (264 cases), and is lower than the 5-year average from 2002-2006 (316 cases). The number of cases in 2011 was 44% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades.
4. **AGE:** The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 48, and ranged from <12 months old to 96 years old. This is the fifth consecutive year the number of cases in children less than 15 years old (14 cases) remained lower than the 5-year average from 2002-2006 (27 cases). Persons aged 25 to 64 made up the largest group of TB cases with 149 (57%). The remaining cases occurred in persons 65 and older (70 cases) and persons aged 15 to 24 years old (30 cases).
5. **RACE/ETHNICITY:** The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 127 (48%) Hispanics, 97 (37%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 25 (10%) non-Hispanic whites and 13 (5%) non-Hispanic blacks.
6. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 70% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 185 cases born outside the United States, 94 (51%) were from Asia (including 58 from the Philippines, and 19 from Vietnam), 75 (41%) were from Mexico, and 8 (4%) were from Africa.
7. **CHILDREN:** There were 7 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (3% of all cases). This represents an 82% decrease from 1993 (39 cases), and a 53% decrease from the annual 5-year average from 2002-2006 (15 cases). Since 2007, 10 or fewer cases in this age group have been reported each year. TB in children of this age is of concern because it often represents recent transmission of infection from adults to children.
8. **DRUG RESISTANCE:** TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 100% of the 216 culture-proven cases in San Diego. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 54 (25%) of these specimens. Multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strains were found in 3 (1.4%) of the cases. During 1999-2011, a total of 47 MDR TB cases were reported in San Diego and none were extensively drug-resistant (XDR). Of the 47 cases, 38 (81%) were among persons born outside the US, including 19 (40%) from Mexico. Vigilance in diagnosing MDR TB and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
9. **BOVIS:** Among the 216 culture-proven cases in 2011, a total of 17 (8%) had disease from *M. bovis*. None of these cases occurred in a child less than 15 years old. This represents the fifth consecutive year of a sustained decrease from the annual 5-year average, 2002-2006, of 30 cases of TB due to *M. bovis*. Of 67 culture-proven cases in 2011 among persons born in Mexico, 12 (18%) had *M. bovis*. Disease due to *M. bovis*, also known as bovine tuberculosis, is usually contracted through the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. Person-to-person transmission is also believed to occur.
10. **HIV:** HIV is the strongest known risk factor for TB disease once TB infection occurs. During 2011, a total of 18 (7%) of the 263 persons reported with TB were also co-infected with HIV. HIV test results were known for 212 (81%) of the 263 persons reported with TB; however, this percentage increased to 94% among 18-55 year olds, the age group accounting for nearly 95% of co-infected cases in 2011.